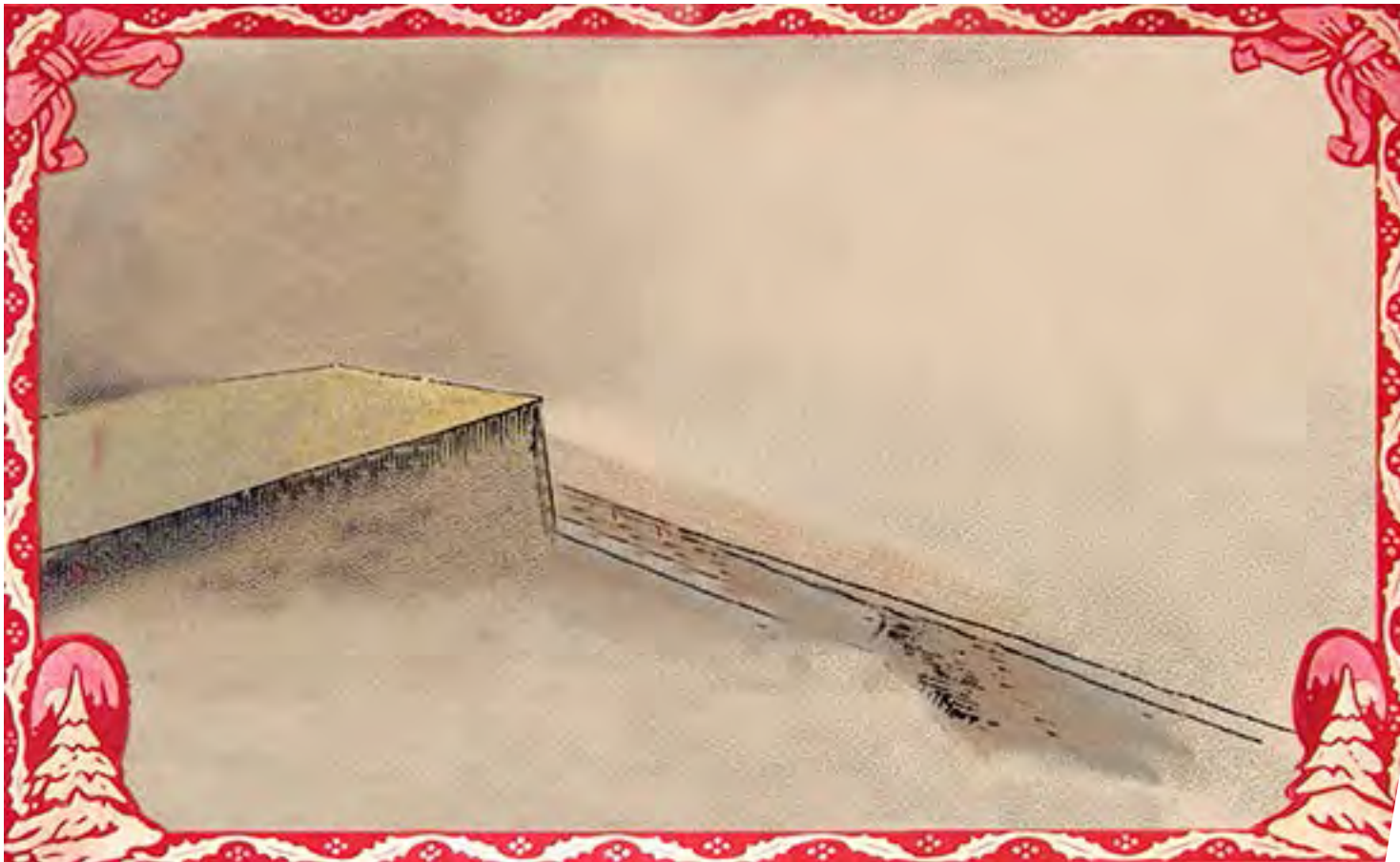


December

Magic Lantern Society NEWS 2014



Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects



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Check Out the Remake of Our Web Site

<http://www.magiclanternsociety.org/>



A big thank you to the following:
Dick Balzer
Debbie Borton
Terry Borton
Karl Link
Jack Judson
Ralph Shape
Garth Westerout
Larry Cederblom
for contributing information for the new site.

More information about many different items!

Coming Attraction Slides

Online Archives & Repository of the SCV Historical Society



<http://scvhistory.com/scvhistory/lw2212.htm>



Magic lantern slide for "Code of the West" (1929), starring Bob Custer. A Syndicate picture (a production company run by Trem Carr, who later founded Monogram Pictures). Shot entirely in Newhall — particularly on Spruce Street (modern-day Main Street) and Railroad Avenue, including the Newhall train station and the Hap-A-Lan dance hall.

LS&Co. Created Slides About Local Stores and Popular Products

Free Moving Picture Slides

The illustrations show a series of eight Moving Picture Slides. The scenes of these will be inserted in the space above the words "Free Slide No." The slides are beautifully hand-colored, showing the persons in their actual colors and with the most free and original of the slides for use.

LEVI STRAUSS & CO.

36 Broadway St., New York City



Slide No. 1. Waist Overalls



Slide No. 2. Waist and Bib Overalls



Slide No. 3. Bib Overalls



Slide No. 4. Home Run Blouses and Shirts



Slide No. 5. Home Run Shirts and Blouses



Slide No. 6. Home Run Covert Family



Slide No. 7. Koveralls and Playsuits



Slide No. 8. Koveralls

As the 20th century got underway Levi Strauss & Co. found innovative ways to get the word out. They began to paint the sides of buildings with the company name and advertising slogans, all over the West. When silent movies came along, LS&Co. created slides about local stores and popular products, which were shown in between movie reels.

A Site With Slide Images and Information About Lantern Shows



<https://victorianstudiescentre.wordpress.com/2013/12/09/dickens-christmas/>

There were, of course, adaptations of *A Christmas Carol* for the magic lantern too (figure 3). Slides like this bring a welcome element of domesticity to the magic lantern show which isn't present in the tale of Gabriel Grub. If the thought of Christmas ghost stories conjures up ideas of warm firesides (as it did for Washington Irving) then this

slide of a scene from *A Christmas Carol* gives us an image to accompany that thought. Not only is there a fire place on the edge of the slide, but there is a snug looking bed too. And rather than the cold blues and greens of the underground land of goblins and graveyards, there are the warm hues of a well-to-do house. In place of strange and grotesque goblins, we have a rosy cheeked ghost. This is a Christmas scene that makes us think of the comfort and warmth of domestic life. It caters to, and plays a part in forming, the sense of domestic comfort and contentment that goes along with the rich foods and drink, crackling fires, and everything else that make up our Christmas traditions.



Figure 3. From '*A Christmas Carol*'. Undated. Courtesy of the National Media Museum

Who Endorsed What?

By Terry Borton

Last Month's question was: Time to sex it up a little. What image did an enterprising photo editor find among the slides of a well-known, dreamy eyed lantern lecturer, and how did the copy editor pitch that image

Chautauqua lecturer Branson DeCou's "Dream Pictures" were a unique form of lantern show, involving the usual slides and talk, but also including continuous musical accompaniment by professional musicians. DeCou was known for his beautiful coloring, and it was indeed exquisitely done. With the headline, "Wake Up Some Morning in Bali," the astute copy

Wake up some morning in Bali



How would you like to wake up some morning, next Winter in your own luxurious apartment, complete with every facility for comfortable living... then step out on the shores of incredible Bali, last exotic island of simple nature?

Then cruise out to new horizons, new adventures! And between strange ports, amuse yourself with real music on a ballroom court, swimming in a spacious pool, and the varied entertainments that can be offered only on a ship like the *Empress of Britain*... the largest liner that ever went around the world!

That is exactly the way this cruise takes you to eight Mediterranean cities, through Egypt and India, via the Malacca Strait to Siam, Cambodia, and Java... up into China and Japan... and home by way of Hawaii, the Panama Canal, and the West Indies. Grand sale from New York, January 8, 1930.

15 ports. Fares from \$2150. Apartments with bath from \$3000. Both include standard shore program. Select ten stops. **EMPIRESS** starts now on any Canadian. Pacific office: New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Washington, Montreal, London, and 12 other cities in the U. S. and Canada.

P. S. For a shorter cruise, take the *Abasco* (Australia Cruise, 21 ports, 55 days. *Empress of Australia* from New York January 25. Fares from \$1150. Quarters with bath from \$2150), including standard shore program.

Empress-Britain
WORLD CRUISE
Canadian Pacific

writer for Empress-Britain World Cruise manages to appeal directly to women with an image of a

well-to-do lady dreaming of travel, and to men with some bare-breasted Balinese women—both in the same ad. (The Balinese photo is by DeCou.) The appeal to that double audience was probably important. They wouldn't go unless she wanted to go; they wouldn't go unless he was willing to pay.

Question for next month: ?
Sorry, no sex.
Wild animals.
So who promotes what?

Email: TBorton@MagicLanternShows.com

Brittingham Family Lantern Slide Collection



At bottom of Natural Bridge Thomas Brittingham (left) with Mr. and Mrs. Adams at Natural Bridge in Jamaica. Date: 1917-03-06
Glass lantern slide / 3.25 in. x 4 in.

This collection consists of the personal and travel photographs of the Brittinghams, a prominent and influential Wisconsin family. Spanning the years 1897-1922, these images capture the private lives of a wealthy family at the turn of the century, and document their travels to 22 states and 32 countries.



<http://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/WI/Brittinghamlms>

UCLA Newsroom Published an Article About Magic Lantern Activities

From Erkki Huhtamo

With an office full of antique projectors known as “magic lanterns” and a conviction to retell media history, Erkki Huhtamo has pioneered the field of media archaeology, compelling us to think about the cultural history of 21st century media through the machines that were the precursors to today’s digital cams and movie projectors.

Having begun this quest more than 20 years ago in his native Finland, Huhtamo, a professor of design media arts as well as



film, television and digital media, has sought not only to record the history of media through his writings, art and exhibitions, but to entertain modern-day audiences with productions using these antique machines.

more at:

<http://newsroom.ucla.edu/stories/scholar-revives-antiquated-media-machines-for-digital-age-audiences>

Erkki Huhtamo and his magic lantern
Huhtamo is a pioneer in media archaeology.

By
**Sarah
Dellmann**



This page features interviews with people who do research on the magic lantern. Initially launched with the aim to bridge the gap between academic research and collectors, this series now expands its range to anyone who does research in order to find out things around and about the magic lantern, be it for academic work or for professional purposes, out of interest in local history or out of love for the material. Archivists, curators, collectors, and performers will be interviewed alike.

Did you find out something interesting when preparing a show? Did you discover yet unknown aspects about a lantern slide that you sold, bought or prepared for exhibition? Have you been busy in tracing a showperson, a venue, local lantern history, lantern technology or a manufacturer? Tell us what you learned and how you went about! If you do academic research, tell us what the magic lantern helps you to explain!

If you know someone that should be interviewed or if you have something to share, send an email to Sarah:

s.dellmann@uu.nl

Interview with Dr Richard Crangle

Where do you work and what is the topic/interest of your research?

I'm a freelance researcher, working from home in Exeter, south-west England. I like the freedom that this gives me, as opposed to doing a day-job in an institution, though it does mean it's always 'just' a hobby and (apart from some welcome support from Trier University) I fund everything myself.



I mainly work on documenting the British lantern and slide trades of what I call the 'long 1890s' – around 1880 to the First World War. But I find any lantern-related areas, before or since that period, just as interesting. There are so many topics I know nothing about, there's always something new to learn. Everything I find goes into the Lucerna online database (www.slides.uni-trier.de), whose development is the other main way I spend my time.

How do you work? With which sources do you work?

I use two main types of source – firstly, I have a heap of photocopied slide catalogues that various collectors kindly let me have, and I'm gradually working through those, listing the slide sets and recording as much supporting information as I can (who made a set, who sold it, any identifiable people, dates, locations etc.). That's starting to give me a sense, for the first time, of how many slides were actually made – my current guess, for the British 'long 1890s', is 250,000 to 270,000 different commercial slide titles. At the moment somewhere north of 91,000 (and rising) of those are listed in Lucerna.



continued next page

Magic Lantern In Academic Research Interview of Dr Richard Crangle continued

Secondly, there's the internet. It still astonishes me just how much I can find without moving from my desk – when I started out this was unimaginable. All you need is time and patience, and a sense of what's reliable or relevant (and also what ain't). I do a lot of research on family history sites to find biographical outlines of



lantern-connected people. Some of it may not, in the end, be relevant or important – but at this stage I don't know what's 'important', so I treat everything as equally valuable and worth its place in the record.

When and how did the Magic Lantern appear in your life and research?

In 1992 I was working on a PhD that was supposed to be about links between early cinema and other 1890s media, but I wasn't finding connections that felt interesting. I'd seen the name 'magic lantern' in a few footnotes in cinema histories, but not thought much more about it. By chance I found the book *Victorian Britain through the Magic Lantern* on the bargain shelf of a bargain bookshop(!), and a lightbulb went on as I recognized the connection I'd been looking for. Possibly the best £3.00 I've ever spent.

There was so little academic work on the lantern then that it felt like an open playing field. I joined the UK Magic Lantern Society, where people helped me with access to collections and catalogues, giving me raw material for the PhD and beyond. As it happened, around the same time I learnt how to use and create databases, and (cutting a very long story short) that was the start of the winding road that led me eventually into the Lucerna project.

What do you wish to find out with your research? Why is it interesting?

It became clear to me early on that it's hard to find reference information about lanterns and slides – taking a random slide, how can you find who made it, which set it's from, when it was made? So the aim of what I'm doing with Lucerna is to create (at least part of) a reference source for lantern material from any country, any period, any purpose. I'm well aware that this is impossible – or at least, impossible to complete – but it seems to me that doing anything is better than doing nothing. The real point is that, if we're hoping to awake interest in new generations of collectors / scholars / whoever, we have to offer

them easier ways into the subject than the one that I took as a wide-eyed young(ish) researcher.

Apart from that grand ambition, I'm interested in gathering information and seeing what comes out of it, rather than setting out with something particular to prove. The thing I like most about research is the surprise discovery, when something apparently trivial turns out to 'fit' with something else and begins to tell you a story.

There's still so much we don't know about lantern history, and the people who created it, that almost any discovery adds something to the overall picture. And there's so much useful and interesting material around, in public and private collections, just waiting to find its place in the big jigsaw puzzle. It's an exciting time to be doing this stuff.

Have a look at the Lucerna database at www.slides.uni-trier.de. If you want to contribute your findings and information to Lucerna, this is more than welcome. Please use the contact form on the website to get in touch!



Inquiry About 2x2 Pre-WWII Glass Slides

From Clayton Hicks

My wife's father was in Germany during WWII & he brought back 640 2x2" glass slides all pre-WWII. Many of the slides are by Dr. Stoadtner, Berlin. I have been informed that these are museum quality slides. If so, I might be interested in donating them to a museum or University. First, I need to know their value and if they are of museum quality. Do you have any suggestions as to how I can get them classified & checked for their value? Is there anyone in the Nashville, TN area representing the Magic Lantern that might come by and take a look at these?
Clayton Hicks
Franklin, TN

Response From Suzanne Wray

Hi, Mr Hicks,

I'm not sure how you came to contact me, as I'm in NYC, but I'll do my best. Your slides sound very interesting and I'm sure someone in the Magic Lantern Society will be able to help you evaluate their quality and value.

I am CC'ing this reply to David Evans, the secretary of the Magic Lantern Society: I just received a copy of the November "epub" of the Society from him. And Kentwood Wells, who is the editor of the Magic Lantern Gazette, the Society's research journal. They will know of any member who could help with this, or could publish your question in the newsletter which reaches all members of the Society.

Good luck with your quest!

Best Regards,
Suzanne Wray

Response From Kentwood Wells

I don't know much about early 2 X 2 slides. These are not technically lantern slides, but the successor to lantern slides. Are the slides color or black and white? Kodachrome film was introduced in 1935; before that, slides were hand colored. If you can supply a few digital images of the slides, it would help in evaluating them. I am not sure what the collectable market is for such slides. It depends on the subject matter. They may cross over from being of interest to magic lantern collectors to being of interest mainly to photo collectors. I have copied this message to Larry Cederblom, who produces our monthly email newsletter. He could circulate your inquiry with some photos in that publication, which reaches all of the members of the Magic Lantern Society of the U.S. and Canada. Out of 150 or so people, there should be someone who can supply more detailed information.

Kentwood D. Wells
Editor, The Magic Lantern Gazette

Response From David Evans

Dear Mr Hicks

Thank you for contacting us, and thank you Suzanne for forwarding the enquiry.

Traditional (photographic) magic lantern slides are 3.25" square (British format) or 4" x 3.25" (US and some European formats) and have generally been those formats from the third quarter of the nineteenth century until well into the 20th. Of course there were many more formats in various sizes for toy lanterns, but these were not of any

great quality. Two inch square slides as well as other sizes were introduced in the 1930s, often using film stock rather than printing them directly on glass. Yours may well be of this kind in glass mounts. Whether or not they are of "museum quality", or have great monetary value, would depend on a) the technical quality of the photographs and, even more important, b) the historical importance of the images. As these are German in origin, might I suggest you contact our member Ludwig Vogl in Germany (info@illuminago.de) ? He is a professional magic lanternist, is involved with German museums and is also a personal friend. He will most probably be able to shed some light on the slides and perhaps help with identifying the subject matter. If you could scan or photograph some of the images that would greatly help with identification. If you can do that and let me have copies of a few of them together with any details you might have, we could include them in a future copy of our e-publication, which goes to members all over the world.

I have taken the liberty of copying this message to Ludwig as well.

Thank you again.

David Evans
Secretary-treasurer

The Magic Lantern Society of US and Canada

As Seen On



17,778 slide listings as of 11/29/2014

Another Unusual and Pricey Toy Lantern

http://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/MAGIC-LANTERN-CINEMA-CHARLIE-CHAPLIN-ALL-LITHO-TIN-ERNST-PLANCK-GERMANY-1930-/201211934590?pt=US_Movie_Slide_Projectors&hash=item2ed92a777e

MAGIC LANTERN CINEMA CHARLIE CHAPLIN
ALL LITHO TIN
ERNST PLANCK GERMANY 1930



1810w, 2014 0617810w

US \$2,000.00

Approximately £1,260.34

Buy It Now



*Possible Stocking Stuffer!
Maybe a little pricey for a single slide.*

CHINA 1880 /1900 *TSCHANGTSCHUN*PAGODA*,
JILIN*GLASS SLIDE*3,25x3,25 INCHES*



Price: US \$3,550.00

Buy It Now

YELLOWSTONE Rare&Scare Pres. Arthur & Gen. Sheridan
1883 Trip Color Glass Slide



Price: US \$1,850.00

Buy It Now

Toy Lanterns and Slides for the Holidays

EXTENDED 22, 1910. The Tacoma times., December 27, 1912,

THE BEE: OMAHA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1910.

Store Open Evenings Till Christmas

BENNETT'S

Give Him a Piece of One of Yours. He's sure to
 find a good gift for him, and you'll
 get very much more.

Extra Values Thursday in TOYLAND

All our Magic Lanterns, Moving
 Picture Machines, and Square
 Engines must go. Now is your
 time to buy one at below cost.

\$1.15 Moving Picture Machine	75c
\$1.00 Moving Picture Machine	65c
\$1.50 Moving Picture Machine	1.00
\$1.75 Moving Picture Machine	1.25
\$2.00 Moving Picture Machine	1.50
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\$32.00 Moving Picture Machine	31.50
\$	

**The Bee, Omaha,
Thursday, Dec 22,
1910**

[illegible]

The Tacoma times., December 11, 1914,

TOYLAND BARGAINS

\$6.75 Autos \$5.00

Fine Aston for boys that will give them all kinds of joy. With rubber tires and adjustable seat. Reg. \$6.75. Special \$5.00

Magic Lantern Slides 3c and 5c

Assorted sizes of slides for magic lanterns. Values in 20c special, each, 5c. Values to 10c, special

75c Doll Hammock, Tomorrow	3c
95c Drums, Tomorrow	48c
15c Metal Drums, Tomorrow	75c
85c Tin Engines, Tomorrow	20c
50c Toy Autos, Tomorrow	50c
15c Target Set, Tomorrow	48c
25c Target Set, Tomorrow	10c
50c Target Set, Tomorrow	19c
75c Parlor Balls, Tomorrow	35c
	35c

Fur Sale



Magic Lanterns

for the little folks' home entertainments. We imported a beautiful line from Germany—the nicest ever brought to this city.

Moving Picture Machines, gun metal finish, six continuous strips of colored film and 12 slides..\$6.00

Square Red Lanterns, with one dozen slides; each.....\$1.25, \$1.00 and 90c

Six illuminated slides with the 75c and 65c sizes.

Extra Large Lanterns of the very finest make; prices ranging from.....\$17.50 to \$7.00

The great Jack and Jill game.....\$1.00

John W. Graham & Co

37 Six Months at 100c per Doz. 100c

707-709-711 Sprague Avenue.

PEOPLES STORE \$1.00 MAGIC LANTERN
69 cts
 Black Polished Steel Magic Lantern With Heavy
 Lens With Dozen Slides
SHOP EARLY

The Seattle Star, December 6, 1906

A Big Thank You to the following:

Terry Borton
David Donaldson
David Evans
Erkki Huhtamo
Kentwood Wells
Suzanne Wray

for contributing to this month's issue.

Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?
If your answer is yes! Send site information or your images to Larry and they will be shared in the next E-pub newsletter.

E-mail Larry



A Collection of Fine Lantern Slides



<http://digitalcollections.ucsc.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/p265101coll30>

About this collection

The Branson DeCou Digital Archive consists of digitized images of 8,000 hand-tinted 3-1/4 x 4 in. glass lantern slides used in years of travel lecture tours covering all countries of the world, from ca. 1920-1941.



Courtesy Special Collections, UC Santa Cruz

Yellowstone National Park: geyser erupting
View in tinted lantern slide, ca. 1920-1940
DeCou, Branson (American, 1892-1941); photographer

About Slides of Bonus Army

From David Donaldson

To me the interesting aspect is, why were the slides made?

Surely to accompany some lecture by the maker, probably a personal interest.



The research and production effort are admirable.

Best from your transportee –David

Edgar Allan Poe

From Peter Fawn

Please could any of your members tell me what magic lantern slides were produced depicting the stories or poems etc of Edgar Allan Poe's works. I know of one set from the USA from 1894 for Poe's The Raven but would be very grateful if you could let me know if there were anymore produced. Many thanks, Peter

From Terry Borton

He's talking about Beale's Raven. So far as I know, there are no others. I'll write him directly.